

University of Mississippi

eGrove

Daily Mississippian

Journalism and New Media, School of

4-3-2012

March 22, 2012: Grove Edition

The Daily Mississippian

Follow this and additional works at: <https://egrove.olemiss.edu/thedmonline>

Recommended Citation

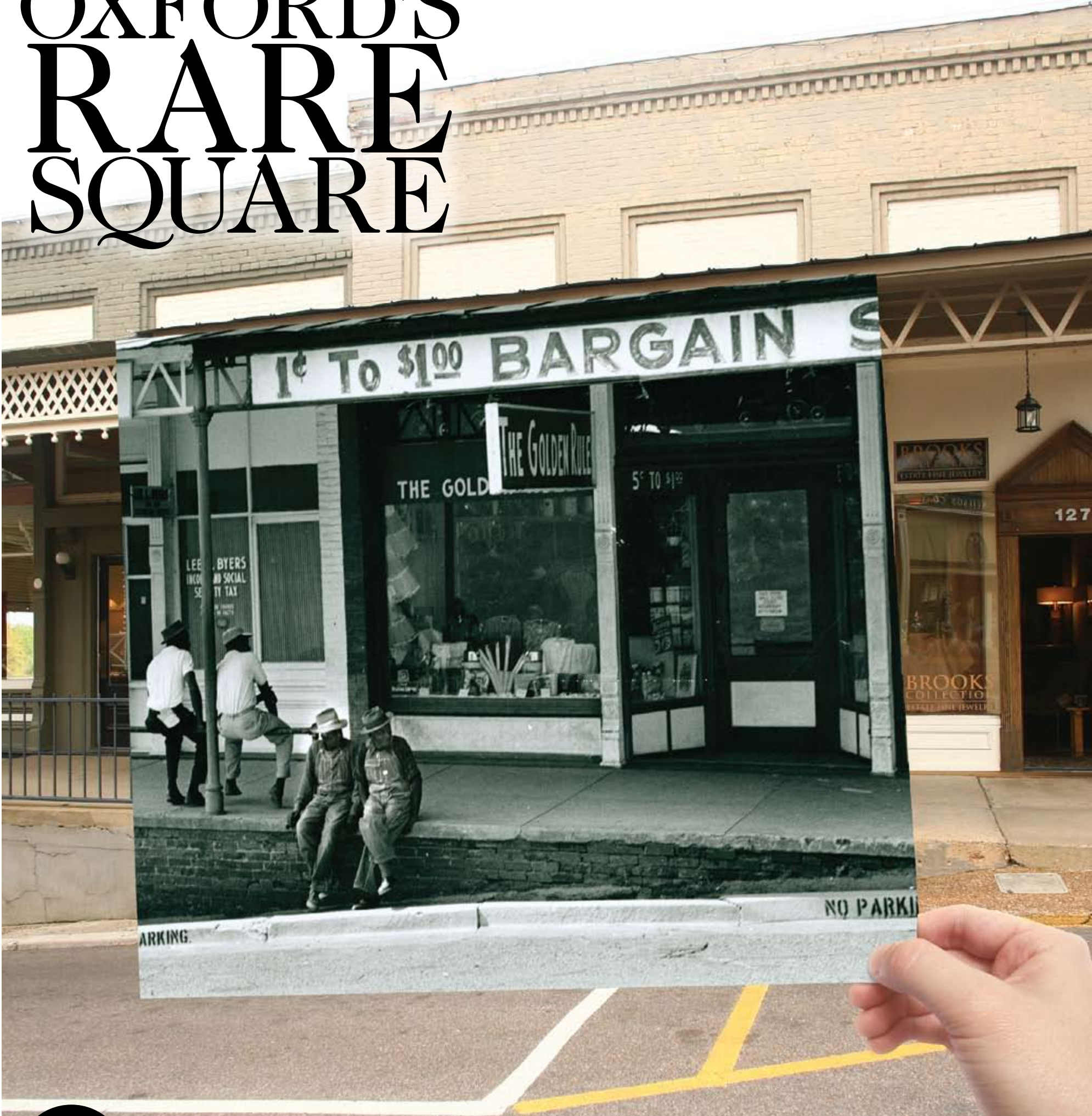
The Daily Mississippian, "March 22, 2012: Grove Edition" (2012). *Daily Mississippian*. 434.
<https://egrove.olemiss.edu/thedmonline/434>

This Newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the Journalism and New Media, School of at eGrove. It has been accepted for inclusion in Daily Mississippian by an authorized administrator of eGrove. For more information, please contact egrove@olemiss.edu.

THE GROVE

EDITION

OXFORD'S RARE SQUARE



JARED BURLISON | The Daily Mississippian
Historic photo courtesy of Archives and Special Collections, University of MS Libraries

4 Oxford Square:
What was then and is now

5 Passion and flavor:
Lenoir Dining experience

8 Oxford native aids
orphanage in Ghana

COLUMN

The Weekly Top Zen: Material Girl



BY ANDY PAUL
@anandypaul

I believe it was Susan B. Anthony who said, “We are living in a material world, and I am a material girl.”

Man, I feel ya, Ms. Anthony. It’s a byproduct of living in a consumerist culture, I imagine. That, and probably just being selfish and a bit shallow. It’s somewhat hard enjoying buying various things when you are in college, though. All my money nowadays seems to go toward pesky things like heat, electricity and running

water.

But my college days are numbered. Soon I will be out in the real world, at least temporarily (with a religious studies degree, one is sort of destined for a lifetime of schooling). I’ll have a job with a steady source of income, and, therefore, a bit of discretionary cash.

Yep, I’ll be rolling around in a bed of money. Probably \$1 bills, but money nonetheless. I didn’t realize how much that sounds like I’ll be stripping. Well, I’m not ruling anything out. Times are tough.

Even with some extra funds, I don’t know if I’ll be much happier than I am now. This is because I have come to the conclusion that television is determined to crush every-

one’s spirit.

I don’t own a TV in my apartment. This is not because I think the boob tube is vile; it’s simply because, you know, I don’t have any cash. I just went over this a few sentences ago. Pay attention, please.

During spring break, I caught up on all the nerdy shows that I don’t care to admit to watching while hanging out at my parents’ house.

It’s odd; I’m too embarrassed to admit the shows I watch, but I have no problem acknowledging I spent my entire spring break sitting on my parents’ couch eating chips. I’m a bundle of contradictions, I suppose.

All this being said, I had forgotten just how intense

commercials and advertising can be. I mean, really. I don’t know how people with cable stand it. After only a half hour of television, I wanted to rush out to buy the next thing advertised, and then promptly hurl it at the screen.

Programming is such a constant barrage of messages telling you to buy things in order to be a better person. It’s a wonder that everyone doesn’t just shuffle around and cry all the time.

I mean, I shuffle around and cry all the time. But that’s because I can’t afford a television to watch History Channel’s “UFO Files.” Wait, I didn’t just write that. I only watch cool, hip shows like “NCIS: Horrifically Disgusting Sex

Crimes Unit.”

While I can’t keep up with my favorite non-“UFO Files” shows, I’ve come to realize that it might be for the best. I was pretty miserable watching all the ads, which told me I wasn’t good enough to leave my house. I’m definitely happier without the steady barrage of commercials, even without an income or a television.

This isn’t to say I have come to revile material goods. If anyone wants to buy me a couple seasons of “UFO Files,” I’ll be more than happy to accept them. And then not watch them, of course. Who am I? Some nerd who watches them at his parents’ place instead of the beach during spring break. Of course not.

COLUMN

Going Greendale



BY JOSH PRESLEY
joshpresley551@gmail.com

Generally my Porsche of a column in this Pinto of a newspaper is supposed to be the “movie column” or the “column we throw out first when there’s not enough space,” but the first few months of the year are a notoriously crappy time for movies, and I’m pretty much just marking time until “The Hunger Games” anyway, so this week instead of movies I’m going to tell you which TV shows you should be watching, and we’ll get back to movies next week

when “The Hunger Games” is finally released and, Jesus Christ, this is the longest sentence ever. Anyway, to my soapbox!

Though a very similar medium, television differs from cinema in a lot of big ways. With movies, what’s popular is more in line with what’s good. Sure there’s a “Twilight” here and there, but for the most part you don’t have a lot of really bad movies making a nearly a billion dollars.

With TV shows, on the other hand, it seems that the crap always rises to the top. “Reality” shows, “competition” shows, procedurals and awful sitcoms are what most people watch.

Heck, one of my best friends who has otherwise impeccable taste (i.e. similar to mine) nev-

er misses an episode of “Celebrity Apprentice” or “The Voice.”

CBS is the highest-rated network despite the fact that, with the exception of “How I Met Your Mother,” its shows (particularly the ones that are supposed to be funny) are uniformly awful and downright offensive. I’d rather take a hard knee to the crotch than watch “2 Broke Girls” or “Two and a Half Men,” but both of those shows are really popular. NBC allows “Whitney” and “Are You There, Chelsea?” to pollute our airwaves. Fox shows “American Idol” pretty much every night of the week because it can’t come up with anything better.

The victims of this television travesty are A) America, and B) The great shows that

people aren’t watching. I’m referring to two shows in particular: “Parks and Recreation” and “Community.”

“Parks and Rec,” is, in my opinion, the best show currently on television. It has gone from being a lame “Office” knockoff to one of the greatest comedies of all time. It has some of the most wonderful, funny and engaging characters you’ll ever see (see: Swanson, Ron), and it consistently has poor ratings. Why? No, seriously, why? You’re obviously one of the ones not watching it, so you tell me! The first three seasons are on Netflix instant queue, and the current season is available for free on Hulu, so I suggest you check it out, since I don’t want to imagine a world where this show isn’t still on.

“Community,” which in many ways is just as good as “Parks and Rec,” was even taken off the schedule for several months to make way for the aforementioned excrement, “Whitney.” Finally, the denizens of Greendale Community College returned to our screens last week (and again tonight! At 7 p.m.! On NBC!) and it was like a breath of fresh air. Ratings were up, too, since I guess everyone was curious what us dang Internet folks was carryin’ on about this whole time.

So, the moral of this story is, uh, I dunno, don’t watch bad TV shows? Avoid MTV, E!, and Vh1 at all costs? I don’t know. Stop looking at me. Tune in next time as I probably nitpick the hell out of “The Hunger Games.”



Follow us Anywhere
twitter/thedm_news

Hollywood Feed

Natural and Holistic Pet Food Merchants

50% OFF

Lupine Brand Leash with the purchase of matching Lupine brand collar!

LIFETIME GUARANTEE, EVEN IF CHEWED.

LUPINE Collars & Leads
GUARANTEED (Even if Chewed)

Hollywood Feed Promise - If you don't love it, If your pet doesn't love it, Bring in the unused portion and we will refund or replace it - Guaranteed

662-638-0435

2210 W Jackson • Oxford, MS 38655

Expiration: 03/29/2012

COLUMN

Oriental Pony Cars



BY MATTHEW BISHOP
mybishop2@gmail.com

Ford forever changed the automotive world in 1964 with the introduction of the Ford Mustang. It created a new segment called the “pony” car, a term that was coined by automotive journalists at the time after the Mustang.

A pony car is essentially a small, front-engine, rear-wheel drive, two-door coupe or convertible. They are also cheap to buy and maintain as they are targeted to younger people who don’t have the funds to buy big, expensive cars and are more apt to do their own maintenance. Most importantly, they provide a fun and exciting driving experience that can’t be matched by any other vehicle. This combination proved to be highly successful for Ford, as it sold more than 2.5 million Mustangs in only 5 and a half years.

Other manufacturers quickly recognized the success of the Mustang and created pony cars of their own. Examples include the Chevrolet Camaro, Dodge Challenger and the AMC Javelin.

These cars were also successful on the race track with a new series called the Trans Am series that was dominated in the ‘60s and ‘70s by special editions of the pony car, like the Mustang BOSS 302 and Challenger T/A.

Then a gas crisis hit, and insurance premiums skyrocketed — thanks to the young buyers who liked to street-race them. So, by the 1980s almost all the pony cars were gone except the Mustang and Camaro (and its derivative, the Pontiac Firebird). Then the final nail went in the coffin of pony cars in 2002 when GM canceled production of the Camaro and Firebird, leaving the Mustang as the sole pony car left.

Then, in 2005 Ford revolutionized the pony car again with the introduction of a new “retro”-styled Mustang, made to look like the Mustangs of the ‘60s. Then, once again, Chevrolet and Dodge jumped on board and came out with “retro”-styled pony cars, the Chevrolet Camaro and Dodge Challenger.

But, can we really call these

reincarnations pony cars? After all, they are much larger and are priced well above what the original target market of 20- to 30-year-olds can afford. Granted, the new 305-hp Mustang V-6, priced at an affordable \$22,995, is an excellent value, which is why it is a two-time Best Buy winner. But this is for a bare-bones Mustang, for which most buyers will not opt.

This is where the Japanese and Koreans come in. The Japanese had a short bout with pony cars in the early ‘90s with cars such as the Mazda RX-7 and Toyota Supra. But these cars suffered increased costs, which led to higher pricing that put them out of their target market and were eventually canceled.

Hyundai had a small sports car called the Tiburon for many years, but it was front-wheel drive and didn’t have any performance of which to speak. But then in 2008 they got rid of the Tiburon and came out with the new Genesis Coupe. The Genesis Coupe is a small, front-engine, rear-wheel drive coupe that is priced in the lower \$20K range. The Genesis Coupe is also a blast to drive and for 2013 will come with either a 274-hp turbocharged four-cylinder or a new 348-hp V-6, plenty of power for any auto enthusiast. The Genesis Coupe is also a more manageable size and is closer to the original pony cars.

Then the Japanese decided they would give the pony car another try. So for the 2013 model year they will release the Subaru BRZ and Scion FR-S, both of which are front-engine, rear-wheel drive coupes that are about half the size of a new Dodge Challenger. They too are expected to be priced in the lower \$20K range and are marketed to younger buyers.

All three of these foreign cars embody the characteristics of a pony car. I would even say they are more related, at least in spirit, to the original pony cars of the ‘60s. Many might say they can’t be pony cars because they don’t come with a V-8 engine. But is a V-8 engine necessary? Sure, you don’t have that distinct V-8 growl, but the modern engines in these cars will outrun all but the biggest V-8 engines of yesteryear, while getting fuel economy that only the Pacer was capable of getting back then.

Then the final argument



2013 Subaru BRZ

Photo Courtesy of Subaru



1965 Ford Mustang

Photo Courtesy of Ford

comes up: “Well, it’s just not American.” It is true that the pony car is an American icon, but is the title “pony car” reserved only for American-made vehicles? I’ll let you decide.



Alice & Co.

Hair • Nails • Skin

1729 University Avenue • 234-3896

THE GROVE

EDITION

MALLORY SIMERVILLE
lifestyles editor

CAIN MADDEN
editor-in-chief

KELSEY DOCKERY
design editor

EMILY ROLAND
copy chief

LAUREN SMITH
managing editor

If you would like to submit work or inform us of upcoming events, contact us at thedmfeatures@gmail.com

The Mark

Call for Appointment
(662)234-8718

Located on Old Taylor Road Oxford, MS 38655

Our Property Features Include:

- Two Swimming Pools
- Tennis Courts
- 24-hour Fitness Center
- Walking Trail
- Grand Clubhouse
- Tanning Beds

Special Price \$850
\$99 Deposit
\$25 Application Fee
Ends March 31st
Rates are subject to change.

We offer luxury two-bedroom/two bath apartment homes that come fully equipped with:

Washer and Dryer	Over 1100 Square Feet Heated
Outside Storage	Two Full Baths
Dishwasher	Built-in Microwave
Walk-in Closets	Refrigerator with Ice maker
Garbage Disposal	Free Internet Access
Ceiling Fan in Living Room	

The Oxford Square thrives as it changes through the decades

BY ROSS CABELL
rsscabell@gmail.com

If you wanted to drive across Mississippi and stop in all the small towns to see the history, change and preservation, chances are, they'd all look and feel the same.

"Oxford in many ways is similar, even identical, to a dozen other towns of like size in Northern Mississippi," John Sobatka Jr. said in his book the "A History of Lafayette County."

What seems to separate Oxford from the rest, is its thriving Square stacked with restaurants, shops, art galleries and infamous book-stores.

Most of the towns across the South have grown accustomed to empty storefronts and abandoned homes. The small towns, which used to drive commerce, lost gumption as railroads were replaced as the major means of trade.

Water Valley, only 25 minutes away from Oxford, was one of those towns. It recently tried to transform it's version of the Square – or Main Street – into a renewed, booming place of business.

Four Water Valley women were featured in a New York Times article this month for their fresh ideas to improve Water Valley's Main Street and century-old homes.

The small town feel of Water Valley is what drew these women in, and kept them there. They worked together to renovate three houses and one storefront.

Alexe van Beuren, owner of B.T.C. Grocery, Erin Austen Abbot, photographer, shop owner, art show curator and travel nanny,

The Square: Then and Now

Square Books was Blaylock Drug Store

208 was Smitty's

Bottletree was a bus station

Ajax was Jemies

Rooster's was Sneed's Hardware

Megan Patton, an artist and waitress, and Coulter Fussell, who co-owns and operates Yalo Studios.

Oxford's Square has a different story than that of Water Valley. Some could say the new Water Valley is more like Oxford 50 years ago. Gone are the drug and hardware stores, and in their places are boutiques, bars and galleries.

"You used to do all business on the Square," said Abbot, who was raised in Oxford and opened Amelia Presents on the Square in August 2009. "On Main Street there are restaurants, a park, a locally-owned grocery store, a hardware store; you can walk along Main Street and get everything done there."

While the Square has become the focal point of Oxford, high-end restaurants such as City Grocery, Ajax and 208 have replaced the mom and pop grocery stores.

Square Books, which opened in 1979, has become an Oxford staple, carrying on the tradition of local heroes William Faulkner, Barry Hannah, John Grisham, Larry Brown and many others.

"There were three drugstores on the Square," said Will Lewis, J.E. Neilson Department Store owner. "All of the stores on the Square had local owners and delivered.

It was a different atmosphere, but everybody likes to go back to the old days."

J.E. Neilsons Department Store opened its doors in 1839, less than two years after Oxford was founded in 1837, making it one of the oldest buildings in the South still in operation.

Lewis, who has worked at Neilsons for 44 years, said the Square was all commerce back in the 50's.

"I was practicing law in town, and my father, who was running the business, had an opportunity to buy it," he said.

Property owners on the Square wanted to preserve the history and organized as Oxford Square Ltd. In 1976, they commissioned a design team from the Department of Urban and Regional planning at Ole Miss to do sustain the unique and original architecture of the Square.

The group of property owners pushed to remove the commercial, neon signs and make them both functional and aesthetically pleasing. They also created guidelines that would keep the atmosphere alive, while still preserving the sense of history that the Square would become known for.

Abbot said she misses the days



PHOTO COURTESY ARCHIVE AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES

when people could take care of all their household business on the Square. Having everything you need in one place without needing Wal-Mart or strip mall is something Abbot said she finds special about Water Valley.

"I would like to see growth with more businesses that aid to that," she said. "I think it builds a community to have one central space.

"Right off main street I can pay my electric bill, I can go to my P.O. box. I can do it all."

Van Buren said she thinks it's possible for other areas across the South to take the initiative to reestablish their towns.

"I think that aside from maybe the art gallery openings, which bring in people from all over, that it is possible," she said. "Like my grocery store, my customers are people who live in Water Valley. As long as you are fulfilling the needs of your community, I think it is possible."

Oxford itself was not an exception to renovations. During the Civil War, Gen. Ulysses S. Grant set up camp at the courthouse, and

Union Major General Andrew Jackson "Whiskey" Smith burned down the Square in 1864, only to be rebuilt in 1873. The Federal Court House and Post Office were renovated in 1975 and 1976, and later became Oxford City hall.

The Square's growth has consistently been propelled by the rapid population increase that the town has seen, thanks to its history, culture and Ole Miss.

Patton, an Oxford native, said the Square was completely different when she was growing up on 34th Street.

"There were more grocery stores, drug stores and hardware stores; now it's all bars and shops," she said. "I guess it's just gotten so big – more people have moved in."

While many town square across the state are struggling to maintain integrity, Oxford and Water Valley are fighting to keep their towns historic and functioning.

"The Oxford Square always had a charm, a significant literary history, and not just Faulkner," Lewis said.

SUMMER 2012

MAY INTERSESSION:
MAY 14-26

FULL SUMMER TERM:
MAY 30-JULY 27

FIRST SUMMER TERM:
MAY 30-JUNE 27

SECOND SUMMER TERM:
JUNE 28-JULY 27

AUGUST INTERSESSION:
JULY 30-AUGUST 11

www.olemiss.edu/summer

Rue Taylor

Taylor's Pub

Right Behind The Lyric

NO COVER
All Pinnacle flavors
\$3.00 ALL NIGHT
please drink responsibly

LADIES NIGHT

Photo Essay: New Orleans Nostalgia

This group of photographs was taken using several different disposable cameras. The lower quality of the film and the apparent deteriorated look of the pictures give them a feel of antiquity and nostalgia. New Orleans has that same feel and these pictures aim illustrate that.

Photo Essay By: Peyton Thigpen

Want to see your photos here? Contact thedmfeatures@gmail.com



COLUMN

Brandon Taylor leads us through the “Wild Blue”



BY ANDREW DICKSON
addickso@olemiss.edu

An Ole Miss senior is releasing and performing his first album Saturday night.

Brandon Taylor, an English major from Memphis, Tenn., will debut “Wild Blue” at Two Stick, backed up by other local musicians, including contributors for Elemovements.

“The ‘Wild Blue’ itself is just the setting; it’s what you’re looking at everyday,” Taylor

said of the album’s theme. “It encompasses your life and the connections you’ll make, the time you’ll spend and the lessons you’ll learn.

“Imagine driving in the morning. You’re half-awake, the only person in the car, and you seem to be alone on the road; there is a numb, ‘just awake’ feeling. At that moment the world is a strange place to be in. Then, as you ‘wake up’ you become more used to it.”

As far as the music itself is concerned, Taylor said it is a “concept album,” inasmuch as life itself is a concept,” with the songs telling different stories.

After giving the album a number of plays, I was impressed with both Taylor’s ability to

tell a good story and his sound, which is very approachable for fans of traditional folk music.

Some songs are impressive enough lyrically to warrant multiple listens, but the most enduring quality of “Wild Blue” is how genuinely easy it is to hear the amount of fun Taylor is having. Even in the songs that reflect life’s trying times, Taylor holds a playful demeanor.

The album features several instruments, including guitars, bass, drums, pianos, harmonicas, an organ and the mandolin. Taylor typically plays the guitar and harmonica during performances, though he sometimes mans the keys or the mandolin.

“I love the harmonica,” Taylor said. “The harmonica can bring that extra emotion, that extra bit of soul, after you’ve said what you want to say. If someone is feeling what you’ve said lyrically, the harmonica can then carry that emotion over musically.”

As for live performances, Taylor played open mic nights both in Oxford this year and in Colorado last summer. Saturday will be his debut as a featured performer, but he talks like he’s ready for the opportunity.

“As a musician, there’s a certain responsibility you have to perform up to your standards when people take time out of their day to come see you play,” he said. “There’s a certain feeling you get when everyone is in tune, and you start riding that positive vibe — you find your zone. I’d love to find that zone for a living.”

Taylor says he is looking forward to graduating “soon-ish” and plans to tour this summer in Colorado and other Western states. After he graduates, Taylor says he wants to travel, keep making music and hopefully be




PHOTO COURTESY BRANDON TAYLOR

Ole Miss English senior Brandon Taylor

able to pay rent with his guitar. “But if all else fails, I will be able to use my degree to teach English as a secondary language in Italy,” Taylor said. “So, at worst I’ve got a beach in Italy waiting on me.”

Brandon Taylor’s album “Wild Blue” was mixed by Chris Wilke and will be available for purchase and download on iTunes this Saturday. There will be no cover, and the music will begin around 10 p.m. Saturday night at Two Stick for the release party.

“My future is wide open, but I’m still taking life as it comes,” Taylor said.


**Ole Miss Theatre** *presents*

**An Evening of
Christopher
DURANG**
*‘Dentity
Crisis*
**Actor’s
Nightmare**

March 27 - April 1 at 7:30 p.m.
March 31 - April 1 at 2 p.m.
MEEK AUDITORIUM

Adult Language

second stage

**TICKETS: 662.915.7411**

"...THEIR FINEST ALBUM SINCE YANKEE HOTEL FOXTROT"
- PASTE



ONLY AREA APPEARANCE!

SATURDAY, MAY 19
MUD ISLAND AMPHITHEATRE
MEMPHIS

TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT • Ticketmaster.com
• All Ticketmaster Outlets • Charge by phone at 800.745.3000

NEW ALBUM - THE WHOLE LOVE - AVAILABLE EVERYWHERE

WILCOWORLD.NET

Interest Meeting!


The Cultural Connections Mentor Program needs YOU!

Cultural Connections Mentor Program matches newly arriving international students with an established student mentor who meets and welcomes students at orientation. Mentors help link incoming students with university and community resources and programs, provide initial and follow up social support and identify needs/concerns of the students, and work in pairs or teams with international students throughout an academic year. Mentors also assist in working through daily living challenges and initial social and cultural adjustment.

When? Thursday, March 23rd at 2:00-2:30 pm and 4:00-4:30pm
Where? 1st floor of Martindale in the Admissions meeting room

Can't attend an interest meeting? Contact Regina George at hrgeorge@olemiss.edu for more information.

Cultural Connections Mentor Program



Passion and flavor: the Lenoir Dining experience



Students at Lenoir Dining work during their shifts.

TERESA HENDRIX | The Daily Mississippian

BY TERESA HENDRIX
tehendri@olemiss.edu

Most kids are working to master coloring inside the lines at 6 years old. Dylan Clift, however, was making herb-encrusted French garlic bread with his 10-year-old brother.

"I've been doing it ever since," said Clift, who works at Ole Miss' student-run restaurant Lenoir Dining. "It's something about having that night where the (orders) don't stop coming in, (the food) is going out right, you're working hard, you're having a good time and at the end of the night it's just like, 'Wow, I did that! What's up?'"

With goals ranging from owning a bed and breakfast with a full-service restaurant, to planning weddings and hotel events, to holding resort and casino management positions, the hospitality management and nutrition students see each shift at Lenoir Dining bringing them one step closer to their dreams.

The owners of Proud Larry's and Emileigh's, as well culinary school graduates and catering business entrepreneurs, worked at Lenoir while attending Ole Miss.

The unique on-campus restaurant has been in operation since the 1960s, and it opened in its current location of Lenoir Hall on Sorority Row in 2003.

Lenoir's bread is made fresh each day and is served with a salad, entrée and dessert for \$7 for students and faculty members or \$10 for the public. Thanks to Mike and Sharon Shirley of Nashville, recent renovations allowed the restaurant to acquire "a proof box, which allows us to do more styles of bread," according to Executive Chef Lee Craven.

Craven "oversees" the nutrition and hospitality management students in the lab component of the Quantity Food Production and Service class.

"The students hold every position in the back and front of the restaurant," Craven said. "Somebody makes the salads or the entrees, somebody washes dishes, somebody is the manager of the day, (some students) are waiters and hosts."

Kathy Knight, interim chair of

the department, said the students learn about managing personnel, production, scheduling, financial accounting, taking orders and serving the public by working the different positions.

The formal training taught on a day-to-day basis is only part of the education for the students.

"You need to be able to work quickly, and you've got to really be on your toes," hospitality student Jill Schmidt said. "I had no idea how intense it was to get the food out on time, but now I see how it all works together. That's going to help in a management position."

Schmidt said the students not only complete their own tasks efficiently but also cooperate effectively to make each night a success.

This teamwork actually benefits the students as much as it does the restaurants' operations and customers.

"You just look around, and all of your classmates are there lending a hand and that really is the stress management right there," hospitality student Alice Blackmon said.

Craven said he hopes working at Lenoir encourages students to

do things they don't think they can do.

"The first time it could be a little awkward, but over the weeks you definitely see development of those people skills that you really need in this industry," Blackmon said. "For three weeks, I had the same customers because they would come back and ask for me. That relationship was really rewarding for me."

Not only is Lenoir Dining a learning experience for the students, but it is also a unique experience for its customers.

"When you set foot in the actual dining room, you don't really feel like you're in a building where we have classes," Blackmon said. "It's a great atmosphere."

The menu changes every week, regularly including two salads and three entrees, as well as a Lenoir Dining favorite: the catfish po-boy sandwich and seasoned fries.

"The students make the recipes, so it's whatever they decide they want to do," Craven said. "I prefer them to bring recipes from their background, like from their grandmothers or something like that."

Clift said Lenoir Dining tests

students, while also showcasing the department to the Oxford and Ole Miss community.

Reservations for Lenoir Dining

are not required but are encouraged and can be made online at Lenoirdining.com or by phone at 662-915-1863.

Grad Fair • 2012 •

March 20, 21, & 22
10 A.M. UNTIL 4 P.M.
Opened until 5 p.m. on the 21st.
STUDENT UNION LOBBY

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS,
CALL 662-915-7248 OR
EMAIL DEANST@OLEMISS.EDU.**

OFFICE OF REGISTRAR:
GET HELP WITH DEGREE
APPLICATIONS & VERIFY YOUR
GRADUATION STATUS.

CAREER CENTER:
RECEIVE ASSISTANCE WITH YOUR
RESUME & INTERVIEW SKILLS.

OLE MISS BOOKSTORE:
GET MEASURED FOR YOUR
GRADUATION CAP & GOWN.

HERFF JONES INC.:
ORDER YOUR CLASS RING &
GRADUATION INVITATIONS.



DIXIE CRAWFISH CO.

North Lamar in Oxford, Mississippi
www.dixiecrawfishcompany.com
662-571-4425
662-571-8347

THURSDAY 3:00 p.m.
and FRIDAY to 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY 12:00 p.m.
and SUNDAY to until we run out

Live/Cooked/
Catered Crawfish



Oxford native aids orphanage in Winneba, Ghana

BY SARAH HARDEN
seharden135@gmail.com

While her friends and former classmates are busy building careers, getting married and having kids, 25-year-old Oxford native Katie Heckel is busy raising 25 children she considers her own.

Heckel helps support Rafiki, an orphanage located near the coastal city of Winneba, Ghana, about 40 miles west of the capital city of Accra.

Rafiki, which means “friend” in native Swahili, serves to provide better living conditions, education and a stable environment for children in Ghana.

While studying educational psychology at Mississippi State University, Heckel traveled to Ghana in 2008 on a mission trip with the Wesley Foundation, a campus religious organization. Since that summer, she has returned to Rafiki three times, including her current 15-month stay that began in May 2011.

Rafiki began as a partnership project in 2005 by the Rafiki Foundation of the United States and the Methodist Church of Ghana. Rafiki Foundation was given land by the village chief and funded the building of the orphanage with support from the church. The orphanage opened on Dec. 14, 2007, with a ceremony celebrating the arrival of its first six children.

In 2009, Rafiki Foundation withdrew its support due to the global economic crisis, and the Methodist church took on full responsibility of the orphanage, but chose to keep the name Rafiki.

Currently, the orphanage supports 23 children, as well as two in the community. Their ages range from 13 months to 10 years. The children are divided into four

houses based on their age and gender with a house mother in charge of each.

Heckel explained over Skype that the orphanage has become a vital part of the community and has saved the lives of orphans, as well as children in the village.

“These children are taken out of schools to be put to work in fishing villages,” Heckel said. “Oftentimes they are sold by desperate parents who are deceived into thinking people are taking their children to give them a better education, when in actuality they are using them as working hands in very dangerous environments. In other cases, poverty leads to starvation or inadequate medical treatment, and children then die of preventable diseases like malaria.”

Heckel said Rafiki’s main goal is to rescue children from these life-threatening situations and provide them with basic needs, as well as a safe and stable home.

“One of the children, Emmanuel Jensen, was left at the gate of Rafiki around age 2 with no name, known parents or past,” Heckel said. “Rafiki took him in and gave him the name Emmanuel Jensen, after the director of Rafiki Foundation, Rosemary Jensen. Rafiki has been able to provide what Junior’s parents either could not or would not provide for him: a good education, a home and love of a family.”

Not only does Rafiki provide for its own children’s needs, but it also brings in more than 30 children from surrounding villages to attend school. Rafiki covers the transportation and one meal each day for all of these children and school staff as well as other staff members.

Heckel said that while the orphanage has the physical capabil-



PHOTO COURTESY KATIE HECKEL

Oxford native Katie Heckel with an orphan named Mabel.

ity to provide for 50 children, it cannot financially support more than 25.

“Rafiki is supported financially by the Methodist Church of Ghana, but the church only has a budget to pay two of the staff salaries, the director and assistant director,” Heckel said. “The director and assistant director contribute their salaries to the operation of Rafiki. As of now, Rafiki is run (25 children, four house mothers, kitchen staff, custodian, security, groundskeeper and school teachers) on those two salaries. So donations keep their head above water.”

As a result of Rafiki’s dependence on donations, Heckel and friend Clint Denson, along others, started Rafiki Friends, an organization that provides people with an opportunity to help support the orphanage by sponsoring a child monthly. The sponsors cover the cost of supporting a child for one month at Rafiki, including \$30 for food, \$30 for education, \$10 for clothing, \$10 for health and \$10 for a savings fund.

“Day to day here at Rafiki, there is so much laughter, learning, tears and giving thanks,” Heckel said. “The joy that shows from their

face cannot be measured. I hope and pray that people will continue to pour financial support into this place because these children are finding love and joy and life because they have been rescued physically and spiritually.”

Heckel’s Oxford church, The Orchard, and her musical talent have also raised money for Rafiki. Matthew Clark, former worship leader at the Orchard, helped Heckel record her first CD, titled “The Isaiah Project,” which included songs written by Katie and Denson during their first trip to Ghana.

“We released it by having a concert at The Orchard to raise money for Rafiki,” Heckel said. “I was traveling back that summer and knew Rafiki was in such a need for money to provide for their basic needs. The CD raised \$3,500, and every cent went to the orphanage.”

Later on, Clark suggested recording another CD to help raise money for her work at Rafiki for the upcoming 15-month stay. So in January of 2011, they began recording another CD called “Colors of Hope.” All of the \$5,000 raised from the project supported

the orphanage.

Katie’s sister, Jenny Heckel, said that growing up, Katie always inspired her with her love of people.

“After that summer, I knew that all her focus was now on helping those children,” Jenny said. “I am so proud of her hard work — getting the children sponsored, raising money for the orphanage and making a difference throughout the community. She has inspired people by proving that you can make a difference in the world. She has actually formed real relationships, and these people have become her family.”

Heckel will return to Starkville in August as a director for Mississippi State’s Wesley Foundation, but will continue to run Rafiki Friends to support others interested in helping in developing countries.

“Help is wanted and needed,” Heckel said. “We need people who are prepared to adjust to third-world cultures and support communities. They have to look for ways to help by building up communities rather than just making a big, one-time donation or short-term mission trip. Helping takes time.”

**PERFECT FOR
GROUP EVENTS,
FAMILIES AND
PARTIES!**

**SAT. 10-5, SUN. 1-5
HWY 6 W BETWEEN
OXFORD AND
BATESVILLE**

662-380-0997
WWW.REBELPAINTBALLCO.COM

Kip Moore at the lyric oxford

\$10 Tickets

For more ticket and show info visit www.thelyricoxford.com